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March 19, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
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Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/769,420; Filed: January 26, 2001
For: **Substituted Nicotinamides and Analogs as Activators of Caspases and Inducers of Apoptosis and the Use Thereof**
Inventors: Cai *et al.*
Our Ref: 1735.0440001

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; and
2. One (1) postcard.

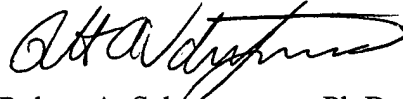
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
March 19, 2004
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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RAS/law
Enclosures

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